

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification because paragraph [0044] utilized both reference "135a" and reference "135c" to refer to the first reflection prism. Applicant has amended paragraph [0044] to consistently refer to the first reflection prism with reference "135a", and thus, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6, 11-14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yokoyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,161,040). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicant's independent claim 1 recites an optical disc drive which includes, inter alia, an optical head including a stationary portion and a movable portion. The movable portion supports an objective lens. The optical disc drive also includes an aberration correcting lens mounted on the movable portion. The aberration correcting lens corrects an aberration caused by the objective lens by moving in a direction substantially orthogonal to a movable direction of the movable portion and in accordance with a variation of the aberration caused by the objective lens.

Applicant's independent claim 11 recites an optical head which includes, inter alia, a carriage, an objective lens supported on the carriage, and an aberration correcting lens. The aberration correcting lens corrects an aberration caused by the objective lens by moving in a direction substantially orthogonal to a movable direction of the carriage and in accordance with a variation of the aberration caused by the objective lens.

Yokoyama et al. discloses an optical head 100 which includes a movable section 102 and a stationary section 104. See Figure 11 and col. 9, lines 42-44 of Yokoyama et al. Stationary section 104 includes a laser source 56, and movable section 102 includes an objective lens 114, and a microfresnel lens 116 formed on the surface of lens 114. See Figure 11 and col. 9, lines 44-54 of Yokoyama et al.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner maintains the position that Yokoyama's movable section 102 corresponds to Applicant's claimed movable portion, and Yokoyama's microfresnel lens 116 corresponds to Applicant's claimed aberration correcting lens. Applicant again submits that Yokoyama et al. fails to disclose or suggest that the microfresnel lens 116 moves in a direction substantially orthogonal to a movable direction of the movable section 102, and thus, fails to disclose or suggest an aberration correction lens that "corrects an aberration caused by the objective lens by moving in a direction substantially orthogonal to a movable direction of the movable portion", as recited in Applicant's independent claim 1, or "corrects an aberration caused by the objective lens by moving in a direction substantially orthogonal to a movable direction of the carriage", as recited in Applicant's independent claim 11.

In the Response Applicant filed on November 21, 2006, Applicant pointed out that Yokoyama et al. discloses that the movable section 102 moves in a direction 109 transverse to a recording medium 119, as shown in Figure 11, and argued that Yokoyama et al. fails to disclose or suggest that the microfresnel lens 116 moves in a direction substantially orthogonal to direction 109 (i.e., a "movable direction" of the movable section 102).

At page 7 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner asserted that "[t]he argument that

moving section moves transverse to recording medium 119 is moot and irrelevant, since what is being CLAIMED is that aberration correcting lens moves orthogonal to movable section [102]". It appears that the Examiner has misunderstood Applicant's argument. Applicant has pointed out that Yokoyama's movable section 102 moves in the direction 109 (i.e., a "movable direction" of the movable section 102) merely to lay the foundation for the argument that Yokoyama's microfresnel lens 116, which he asserts is an aberration correcting lens, does not move in a direction orthogonal to direction 109.

Further, at page 7 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner incorrectly asserts that Yokoyama's movable section 102 moves in an orthogonal direction F. Applicant respectfully submits that this assertion is unsupported by the reference. In this regard, Yokoyama discloses, at col. 9, lines 62-68, that a focusing error signal indicative of a dislocation in the focusing direction F of a focused image spot 118 is derived from a photodetector 124. However, Applicant respectfully submits that Yokoyama et al. fails to disclose or suggest that the movable section 102 moves in the focusing direction F. Rather, Applicant submits that Yokoyama et al. discloses that the image spot 118 is focused by moving a wavelength tunable laser 56 and changing a wavelength of the laser 56. See e.g., col. 9, line 62 to col. 10, line 8 of Yokoyama et al.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that movable section 102 moves only in the direction 109. Applicant further submits that Yokoyama et al. fails to disclose or suggest that microfresnel lens 116 moves relative to movable section 102, and thus, submits that microfresnel lens 116 also moves only in the direction 109, and thus, does not move in a direction substantially orthogonal to a movable direction of the movable section 102.

Applicant further submits that Yokoyama et al. fails to disclose or suggest that microfresnel lens 116 corrects an aberration caused by objective lens 114 by moving in a direction substantially orthogonal to a movable direction of the movable portion, or by moving in accordance with a variation of the aberration caused by the objective lens. Rather, Yokoyama et al. discloses that aberration is suppressed by moving wavelength tunable laser 56 and changing the wavelength of the laser 56. See, e.g., col. 10, lines 2-8 of Yokoyama et al.

Thus, Applicant again submits that Yokoyama et al. fails to disclose or suggest an aberration correcting lens which corrects an aberration caused by an objective lens by moving in a direction substantially orthogonal to a movable direction of a movable portion of an optical head supporting the objective lens and in accordance with a variation of the aberration caused by the objective lens, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 1.

Applicant also submits that Yokoyama et al. fails to disclose or suggest an aberration correcting lens which corrects an aberration caused by an objective lens by moving in a direction substantially orthogonal to a movable direction of a carriage supporting the objective lens and in accordance with a variation of the aberration caused by the objective lens, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 11.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Yokoyama et al. fails to anticipate the inventions recited in Applicant's claims 1 and 11, and thus respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection and allow claims 1 and 11.

Dependent claims 2-4, 6, 12-14 and 16 are also submitted to be in condition for allowance, at least in view of their dependency on claims 1 and 11.

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In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5, 7-10, 15 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokoyama et al. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5, 7-10, 15 and 17-20 are also in condition for allowance for at least the reason that they depend from either claims 1 or 11.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant recognizes that the current status of the present application is after-Final. However, Applicant respectfully submits that entry of the present amendment is proper under the current circumstances, as Applicant submits that the present amendment does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration. In this regard, the present amendment merely corrects a reference numeral in the specification.

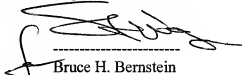
Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Final Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believes that he has done so.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extension for an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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